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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 24, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 19 totaled an estimated 17.0 billion ton-miles, 13.2 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 3 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 48 billion ton-miles, 10.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 19 totaled 444,610 cars, 10.6 percent above 1979, and 1.5 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 6.3 percent in the East, 3.9 percent in the South and 18.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were up, with coal loadings posting a gain of 20,296 cars, or 24.7 percent, and grain showing an increase of 9,083 cars, or 43.1 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 12 totaled 31,470 cars, up 0.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 57,964 trailers and/or containers, 5.8 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 2 weeks of the year was 55,027 cars, 1.5 percent lower than last year, and 99,358 trailers and/or containers, up 3.8 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/19/80.

	Loadings in Week ended January 19, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,138	I	9,083	43.1	I	588	2.0
Other farm products	4,834	I	189	4.1	D	3	0.0
Metallic ores	22,243	D	3,089	12.2	D	4,562	17.0
Coal	102,344	I	20,296	24.7	D	1,074	1.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,445	I	1,119	9.1	I	348	2.7
Nonmetallic minerals	14,447	I	1,406	10.8	I	175	1.2
Grain mill products	19,178	I	2,543	15.3	D	60	0.3
Food and kindred products	19,197	I	1,496	8.5	I	565	3.0
Primary forest products	20,798	D	25	0.1	I	291	1.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,687	D	778	6.8	I	1,064	11.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,232	I	2,380	12.0	I	1,530	7.4
Chemicals and allied products	29,279	I	1,665	6.0	D	92	0.3
Petroleum products	7,182	I	444	6.6	I	595	9.0
Stone, clay and glass products	16,095	I	786	5.1	I	248	1.6
Coke	6,444	D	542	7.8	I	403	6.7
Metals and products	18,514	I	1,744	10.4	I	1,723	10.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,295	D	5,757	25.0	I	452	2.7
Waste and scrap materials	14,378	I	1,739	13.8	I	608	4.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,376	I	3,436	43.3	I	1,033	10.0
All other carloads	44,269	I	4,607	11.6	I	2,552	6.1
LCL traffic	235	D	141	37.5	D	15	6.0
Total Cars Loaded	444,610	I	42,601	10.6	I	6,369	1.5
Corresponding week of 1979	402,009						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Totals Cars Loaded (3 weeks)	1,251,536	1,159,203	I	8.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
2 weeks cumulative	31.3	28.5	I	9.5
Week ended January 19	17.0	15.0	I	13.2
3 weeks cumulative	48.3	43.6	I	10.8

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